
NEWS RELEASE

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New mission for tenant activity will improve Army container management

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. -- A new activity will soon be created within the Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center (PSCC) that will enhance Army logistics readiness.

PSCC personnel are working a fast-paced schedule to configure the Army Intermodal Distribution Platform Management Office (AIDPMO), which will increase its personnel strength from 37 to at least 43.

PSCC, an organizational element of the U.S. Army Materiel Command's (AMC) Logistics Support Activity (LOGSA), headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., is a tenant activity at Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Sandy Gorba, traffic management specialist, has been assigned as the lead action officer responsible for standing-up the AIDPMO, according to Fran Flynn, chief LOGSA PSCC.

The AIDPMO's mission is to serve as the "single manager" for all Army-owned intermodal containers, flatracks and Container Roll-In/Roll-Out Platforms (CROPS). AIDPMO supports Army programs related to distribution platforms with responsibility for inventory and readiness condition of all Army-owned containers and flatracks used for the transport of ammunition and materiel worldwide.

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A flatrack is a portable, open-topped, open-sided unit, which allows transportation of oversized cargo and/or wheeled or tracked vehicles. These and other cargo transport equipment support the distribution platform to deploy and sustain military personnel stationed all over the world.

The USAMC Army Field Support Command (AFSC) serves as the accountable manager for the management and control of the Army's flatracks and CROPS and will report their status to LOGSA PSCC as required. AIDPMO responsibilities will include developing procedures for proper management and control of the Army's \$100 million container inventory.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) containers and flatracks are used to transport all equipment needed by soldiers in the field to perform their mission, Gorba explained.

"An ISO container is an 8x8x20-foot shipping container used for consolidation of cargo to support and sustain unit deployments," she said. "How many containers are needed for each mission depends upon the size of the unit being deployed."

"We will not physically handle the containers, or have property book accountability; they will not be stored or processed here at the depot," Gorba noted. "We will oversee the program that manages the inventory, accountability and condition data of the containers."

The decision to establish PSCC as the single manager was approved by Lt. Gen. Charles S. Mahan Jr., deputy chief of staff, Army G-4 (Logistics), on Oct. 28, 2002, following a 2000 Congressional inquiry that highlighted problems with container management, according to Gorba. The inquiry revealed that the Army has inadequate procedures for determining availability and readiness of assets to meet requirements.

A large majority of Army and Defense Department cargo is shipped via container during peacetime and contingency operations. Data on availability and readiness of assets are key to container operations, Gorba said.

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“This new organization will give the [total] Army better management reporting accountability on the C and F [container and flatracks] - who has them, where items are located and whether or not the Army can account for the readiness conditions - so we can support the missions and meet the requirements,” said Don Stump, chief of the Cargo Team, Transportation and Distribution Division, Force Projection and Distribution Directorate, Department of the Army Headquarters, Pentagon. “The process will allow the Army to provide more than just a snapshot view, but a running management report and account of what the total Army owns.”

“The AIDPMO must be up and running by June 3, no extensions, no excuses,” Gorba said. “Our first priorities are to staff the office and complete an inventory. I'll be doing a lot of traveling over the next few months.”

Gorba expects to travel to Europe, Korea, Japan and throughout the United States to complete the container inventory and to advise activities of the new management procedures.

Personnel skill requirements include logistic and traffic management specialists and an information technology/systems analyst. PSCC officials are currently developing the paperwork to fill these vacancies in the near future.

Initial assignments for the new staff will be to rewrite and/or update all related regulations to meet the Army's requirements, develop inventory records, and to identify and implement an Automated Information Technology System to track and maintain required data.

“This new mission is going to grow rapidly,” Gorba said. “Our initial tasking is for tracking the location and readiness condition of the ISO containers, with the potential to oversee a centralized maintenance program to ensure readiness status to meet unit deployment. In the long term, we expect automated information technology to be used to ensure self-reporting of the containers.”

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PSCC container management mission /4-4-4-4

A single manager for container management and accountability is a new mission for the Army, but is familiar to PSCC, according to Gorba. “We used to do a very similar mission, on a smaller scope, back in the mid 70s, until 1987, when the mission was transferred to the Military Traffic Management Command,” she said. “We’re pleased to have the work returned to us - it’s not the exact same mission, but a significantly larger mission with a much broader scope. Not only do we have the essential experience, but the new functions align with our current missions.”

“This is a tremendous opportunity that provides positive visibility for our organization at the Army level and also highlights Tobyhanna Army Depot, since we are a tenant here,” Flynn added. “Most importantly, however, this effort allows PSCC the opportunity to provide direct and valuable support to our war fighters during deployments, as well as during normal operations.”

PSCC’s overall mission is to provide global logistics and engineering assistance in packaging, storage, hazardous materials, transportation, materials handling, packaging testing, automatic identification technology, and distribution infrastructure modernization.

“The bottom line is that overall responsibility for container accountability and readiness reporting will be retained at one location within the Army,” Gorba said.

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Photos courtesy of U.S. Transportation Command



1. Soldiers monitor a Palletized Loading System as it hoists a container that contains materiel loaded by a Container Roll-In/Roll Out Platform (CROPS). The Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center is establishing the Army Intermodal and Distribution Platform Management Office, which will serve as the "single manager" for all Army-owned CROPS as well as intermodal containers and flatracks.



2. A soldier monitors as a Container Roll-In/Roll-Out Platform (CROPS) system loads supplies. The container will then be transported via a Palletized Loading System. The Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center will coordinate management of all Army-owned CROPS as well as intermodal containers and flatracks.